

Amendments to the Claims

1 Claim 1 (original): A method of uniquely identifying resources, comprising steps of:
2 modeling the resources using a hierarchical schema, wherein classes in the schema
3 correspond to resource types and wherein instances in the schema represent individual resources,
4 each instance being associated with one of the classes according to the resource type of the
5 individual resource represented by the instance; and
6 defining, at a topmost class of the hierarchical schema, a naming rule property and an
7 instance identity property, wherein:
8 each class at levels of the hierarchical schema beneath the topmost level inherits
9 the naming rule property and the instance identity property;
10 a value of the naming rule property for a selected class identifies properties of the
11 selected class that enable instances of the selected class to have unique identities; and
12 an instance of the selected class specifies the unique identity for that instance,
13 using the identified properties for the selected class.

1 Claim 2 (original): The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
2 creating an identity for a particular one of the resources, using the naming rule for the
3 class with which a particular instance that represents the particular resource is associated; and
4 storing the created identity as the value of the instance identity property for the particular
5 instance.

1 Claim 3 (original): The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of locating a

particular instance that represents a particular resource using the value of the instance's identity property.

Claim 4 (original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the value of the instance identity property for a selected one of the instances comprises a local identity.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 4, wherein the value of the instance identity further comprises an identification of a scoping context that is required to provide uniqueness of the instance identity value. ~~wherein the local identity comprises a class name for the class with which the instance is associated and one or more name/value pairs, wherein each name/value pair comprises a property name and a value for that property name, using property names specified as the value of the naming rule property for the class.~~

Claim 6 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 4, wherein the local identity comprises a class name for the class with which the instance is associated and one or more name/value pairs, wherein each name/value pair comprises a property name and a value for that property name, using property names specified as the value of the naming rule property for the class. ~~wherein the value of the instance identity further comprises an identification of a scoping context that is required to provide uniqueness of the instance identity value.~~

Claim 7 (currently amended): The method according to Claim ~~[[5]]~~ 6, wherein:
the value of the instance identity further comprises an identification of a scoping context

3 that is required to provide uniqueness of the instance identity value; and

4 the identification of the scoping context comprises a scoping class name that identifies a
5 selected one of the classes, wherein the particular resource is unique within the selected class,
6 along with one or more name/value pairs, wherein each name/value pair comprises a scoping class
7 property name and a value for that scoping class property name, wherein the scoping class
8 property names are specified as the value of the naming rule property for the scoping class.

1 Claim 8 (original): The method according to Claim 7, wherein the scoping class name is identified
2 in the value of the naming rule property for the class with which the instance is associated.

1 Claim 9 (currently amended): The method according to Claim ~~[[5]]~~ 6, wherein the value of the
2 instance identity further comprises an identification of a root scope within which the particular
3 resource is unique.

1 Claim 10 (original): The method according to Claim 9, wherein the identification of the root
2 scope comprises a domain name within which the particular resource is located.

1 Claim 11 (original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the value of the naming rule
2 property is specified using a structured document.

1 Claim 12 (original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the value of the naming rule
2 property is specified using a structured markup language.

1 Claim 13 (original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the hierarchical schema is an
2 object-oriented schema.

1 Claim 14 (original): The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of creating an
2 identity for a particular one of the resources, using the naming rule for the class with which a
3 particular instance that represents the particular resource is associated.

1 Claim 15 (currently amended): A system for uniquely identifying resources, comprising:
2 a hierarchical schema that models a plurality of resources, wherein classes in the schema
3 correspond to resource types and wherein instances in the schema represent individual resources,
4 each instance being associated with one of the classes according to the resource type of the
5 individual resource represented by the instance; and
6 a naming rule property and an instance identity property defined means for defining, at a
7 topmost class of the hierarchical schema, ~~a naming rule property and an instance identity property~~;
8 wherein:
9 each class at levels of the hierarchical schema beneath the topmost level inherits
10 the naming rule property and the instance identity property;
11 a value of the naming rule property for a selected class identifies properties of the
12 selected class that enable instances of the selected class to have unique identities; ~~[[and]]~~
13 an instance of the selected class specifies a unique identity for that instance, using
14 the identified properties for the selected class; and

15 ~~means for overriding~~ the value of the naming rule property is overridable at any of
16 the levels of the hierarchical schema beneath the topmost level.

1 Claim 16 (currently amended): A computer program product for uniquely identifying resources,
2 the computer program product embodied on one or more computer-readable media and
3 comprising:

4 computer readable program code ~~[[means]]~~ for accessing a hierarchical schema that
5 models a plurality of resources, wherein classes in the schema correspond to resource types and
6 wherein instances in the schema represent individual resources, each instance being associated
7 with one of the classes according to the resource type of the individual resource represented by
8 the instance;

9 computer readable program code ~~[[means]]~~ for defining, at a topmost class of the
10 hierarchical schema, a naming rule property and an instance identity property, wherein:

11 each class at levels of the hierarchical schema beneath the topmost level inherits
12 the naming rule property and the instance identity property;

13 a value of the naming rule property for a selected class identifies properties of the
14 selected class that enable instances of the selected class to have unique identities; and

15 an instance of the selected class specifies a unique identity for that instance, using
16 the identified properties for the selected class; and

17 computer readable program code ~~[[means]]~~ for overriding the value of the naming rule
18 property at any of the levels of the hierarchical schema beneath the topmost level.

1 Claim 17 (currently amended): A method of generating unique resource identities, comprising
2 ~~steps of~~:

3 determining a particular resource for which a unique resource identity is to be generated;
4 accessing a class hierarchy with which resources are modelled, thereby obtaining a class
5 definition for a class that corresponds to a resource type for the particular resource;
6 locating, in the class definition, a naming rule that specifies how identities for instances of
7 the class are to be generated; and
8 generating the identity for the particular resource using the located naming rule.